

Safety Recommendation A-67-13

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued Safety Recommendation A-67-13 to the Federal Aviation Administration on March 27, 1967, as a result of the NTSB's investigation of incidents of loss of power in the main rotor drive of Hiller model UH-12 helicopters. The Board's accident investigation records reveal seven Hiller model UH-12 helicopter accidents since December 1963. All the accidents occurred shortly after takeoff and all were attributed by the surviving pilots as having been caused by loss of power to the main rotor drive system. Detailed examination in each case disclosed that the loss of power to the main rotor drive system was caused by slipping of the mechanical clutch assembly. The slippage, which was revealed during functional tests at the contractor's plant and, also, during laboratory disassembly and examination, occurred as a result of glazed and/or worn friction shoes. The text of Safety Recommendation A-67-13 is as follows:

To the Federal Aviation Administration: The Board recommends that the present flight manuals for all Hiller UH-12 helicopters should be revised to include the proper procedures for engaging the mercury drive clutch along with a functional description of its operation. The Board would like to see, in addition to the above, a placard mounted near the engine/rotor tachometer which would specify maximum acceptable engagement times.